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Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08830.0012-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Satoshi NISHIDA *et al.* )  
) Group Art Unit: 2852  
Application No.: 10/781,620 )  
) Examiner: Ryan D. Walsh  
Filed: February 20, 2004 )  
)  
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS )  
)

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

In reply to the Office Action mailed February 6, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of the application.

As discussed on pages 2-9 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-17, 19-21 and 37-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagawa et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0095815) in view of the acknowledged prior art (No. Tukukai-2000-98758).

Nakagawa et al. and Tukukai, however, fail to render the claimed invention unpatentable. Each of the claims recites a specific combination of features that distinguishes the invention from the prior art in different ways. For example, independent claim 1 recites a combination that includes, among other things:

a transfer section... a selection section for selecting one mode among a plurality of modes including a first mode for forming the image by